

REMARKS

Claim 1 and claims 15-17 have been added. Support for the amended and added claims appears throughout the specification as filed, e.g., page 6, line 13 to page 10, line 3, particularly, page 9, lines 5-24, the Examples and the original claims.

It is respectfully submitted that the present amendment presents no new issues or new matter and places this case in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is requested.

I. The Rejection of Claims 1-12 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. 112 (Second Paragraph)

Claims 1-12 and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph as allegedly being indefinite in the recitation of "increasing cheese yield." This rejection is respectfully traversed.

To expedite prosecution, Applicants have amended the claims to delete the phrase objected to, thereby obviating the rejection.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that the claims overcome this rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection.

II. The Rejection of Claim 12 under 35 U.S.C. 102

Claim 12 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Picon et al., Biotechnology Letters 19(4) pp. 345-348 (1997) (hereinafter "Picon") for reasons of record. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Picon discloses the co-encapsulation of proteinase and phospholipase C in stimulated release liposomes and the addition thereof to ewe's milk in a method for manufacturing Manchego cheese. Picon, Abstract. However, Picon does not teach or suggest a process for producing cheese comprising the use of a purified phospholipase selected from the group consisting of phospholipase C, phospholipase D, and combinations thereof, and therefore does not anticipate or render obvious a cheese prepared therefrom. Applicants therefore respectfully submit that the amended claims are novel.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that the claims overcome this rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection.

III. The Rejection of Claims 1-11 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. 102 and/or 35 U.S.C. 103

Claims 1-11 and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 as allegedly anticipated by, or, in the alternative under 35 U.S.C. 103 as obvious over Picon. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Picon discloses the co-encapsulation of proteinase and phospholipase C in stimulated release liposomes and the addition thereof to ewe's milk in a method for manufacturing Manchego cheese. Picon, Abstract. However, Picon does not teach or suggest a process for producing cheese comprising the use of a purified phospholipase selected from the group consisting of phospholipase C, phospholipase D, and combinations thereof. Applicants therefore respectfully submit that the amended claims are novel and unobvious.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that the claims overcome this rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102 and/or 103. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that all claims are in condition for allowance. Early action to that end is respectfully requested. The Examiner is hereby invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if there are any questions concerning this amendment or application.

All required fees were charged to Novozymes North America, Inc.'s Deposit Account No. 50-1701 at the time of electronic filing. The USPTO is authorized to charge this Deposit Account should any additional fees be due.

Respectfully submitted,

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